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distinct family of Lamnoid sharks from Japan under the name of *Mitsukurina rustoni*. The genus is apparently unique among living forms, its nearest living relative being the genus *Odontaspis* of Agassiz, a group which contains few recent sharks, but which is rich in fossil forms.

American Gordiacea. — Dr. T. H. Montgomery concludes his second paper on Gordiacea of certain American collections (*Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.*, Ser. 3, *Zoöl.*, Vol. I, No. 9) with a synoptical key for determining the species of Gordiacea of the North American continent north of Mexico.

Development of the Eel. — An excellent summary of our knowledge regarding the development of the eel is given by Dr. A. König in *Mittheil. d. Sect. f. Naturk. des Oesterreich. Touristen Club*, X, Nos. 8 and 9.

BOTANY.

A New School Botany. — The modern reaction against the old-fashioned way of making elementary botanical instruction consist chiefly in “analyzing” flowers is well exemplified in the present text-book.¹ With the recommendation that “analysis” be postponed, “even though the pupil may pursue it independently at a later time,” the author introduces the student at once to a physiological and microscopical study of the protoplasm and vegetative organs of a few Algal, Fungal, Bryophytic, Pteridophytic, and Spermatophytic types. These same types, together with others, are then studied in the second part as regards their morphology, reproductive processes, and life history. This part ends with a cursory view of some of the more important families of flowering plants. A final part devoted to ecology calls attention to a few examples of interesting adaptations of various organs to the work of nutrition, protection, pollination, dissemination, and germination, and directs the student to profitable lines of study in geographical distribution with special reference to plant formations. In an appendix suggestions are given for the collection and preservation of material, note taking, etc.

The illustrations are mostly good, some being of unusual excellence. Certain of the photographic views, however, seem too hazy and con-

¹ Atkinson, Ph.B., George Francis, Professor of Botany in Cornell University. *Elementary Botany*. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1898. xxiii + 444 pp., 509 illustrations. Cloth 12mo. \$1.25.